

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00844 131010Z

47

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 130926Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1491

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 0844

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS FR

SUBJ: FRANCO-ISRAELI EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY FOREIGN MINISTERS

1. FONMIN EBAN TOLD ME YESTERDAY AT LUNCH THAT FONMIN IN PARIS A FEW DAYS AGO HAD CALLED IN ISRAELI AMB TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE VISIT BY JOBERT TO ISRAEL. IN INTRODUCING SUBJECT, EBAN NOTED WITH SOME SATISFACTION THAT FRENCH FINALLY HAD TO BITE BULLET AND TAKE INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER SINCE ISRAELIS HAD STUDIOUSLY AND DELIBERATELY AVOIDED AMPLE HINTS QUAI HAD BEEN DROPPING IN PRESS CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY JOBERT TO ISRAEL.

2. EBAN REVEALED THAT QUAI ON OCT 1 HAD EXTENDED OFFICIAL INVITATION FOR HIM TO VISIT PARIS DEC 11, AND PLAN FOR THIS VISIT WAS TO HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED OCT 10. PLAN WAS SCRUBBED BECAUSE
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OF WAR, AND QUAI IN DECEMBER REVERTED TO FORM BY LEAKING IN PRESS THAT JOBERT MIGHT BE INDUCED TO ADD ISRAEL AS STOP ON ONE OF HIS FORTHCOMING MID EAST TRIPS, BUT WITH NO SUGGESTION THAT SUCH JOBERT VISIT TO ISRAEL SHOULD BE ON RECIPROCAL BASIS. BY

FEBRUARY FRENCH SEEMED QUITE ANXIOUS FOR ISRAEL VISIT AND PROPOSED JOBERT INCLUDE ISRAEL ON HIS IMMINENT MID EAST TRIP, I.E., WITHIN A FEW DAYS. SINCE FRENCH WERE STILL GLIDING OVER QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY, ISRAELIS TOLD THEM THEY COULD NOT ORGANIZE MATTERS IN TIME FOR JOBERT VISIT IN FEBRUARY.

3. EBAN THOUGHT THAT THE TWO GOVTS MIGHT NOW AGREE ON AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY JOBERT AND HIMSELF, WITH JOBERT PERHAPS COMING HERE IN MARCH AND EBAN GOING TO FRANCE IN APRIL. EBAN NOTED THAT JOBERT'S PREFERENCE WAS FOR HIM TO VISIT ISRAEL WITHOUT RECIPROCAL VISIT BY EBAN TO PARIS AND TO TIE A VISIT TO JERUSALEM INTO A MID EAST ROUND OF VISITS TO CAIRO, AMMAN AND POSSIBLY BEIRUT. (EBAN REMARKED THAT JOBERT APPEARED TO WANT TO LOOK LIKE SECRETARY KISSINGER.)

4. EBAN STATED FRANKLY THE GOI COULD NOT CARE LESS ABOUT JOBERT COMING TO ISRAEL SINCE, AS HE PUT IT, "THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS VISIT FOR US." ON THE OTHER HAND, EBAN STATED THAT ISRAEL COULD EXPECT CONSIDERABLE RETURN IN TERMS OF FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION FROM HIS VISIT TO PARIS. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD EXPLOIT SUCH A VISIT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXPOSURE FOR ISRAEL'S POINT OF VIEW VIA WESTERN EUROPEAN MEDIA.

KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: rowelle0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV00844
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P740146-1179
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740268/abbrzajq.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: rowelle0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27-Sep-2002 by rowelle0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCO-ISRAELI EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY FOREIGN MINISTERS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, IS, FR, (EBAN, FONMIN), (JOBERT)
To: STATE INFO AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
GENEVA
JIDDA
MOSCOW
LONDON

PARIS
USUN N Y
JERUSALEM

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005